

Superfund Update



Cornell-Dubilier Site

South Plainfield, New Jersey

EPA
Region 2

April 1999

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is issuing this update to inform the community and local officials of the results of recent investigations and upcoming actions related to the Cornell-Dubilier Site (Site) in South Plainfield, New Jersey.

Background

The Cornell-Dubilier Site is located in a mixed industrial, commercial and residential area of South Plainfield, New Jersey and consists of the Hamilton Industrial Park, adjacent contaminated residential and commercial properties and contaminated portions of the Bound Brook downstream of the industrial park.

Cornell-Dubilier operated at what is now the Hamilton Industrial Park from 1936 to 1962 manufacturing electronic components including capacitors. It is alleged that during its operations, Cornell-Dubilier released polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) contaminated materials and other hazardous substances to the environment. PCBs have been detected in soils and in building interiors at the industrial park, at adjacent residential and commercial properties and in the surface water and sediment of the Bound Brook.

The Cornell-Dubilier Site was added to the final federal Superfund National Priorities List of hazardous waste sites in July 1998.

Previous Actions

EPA ordered the owners of the Hamilton Industrial Park take actions to limit the movement of contaminants from the industrial park. These actions were

completed in September 1997 and included paving driveways and parking areas in the industrial park, installing a security fence and implementing drainage controls.

EPA has conducted a study to determine the impacts of contamination of the Bound Brook on human health and environment. Elevated levels of PCBs were found in fish and in sediments of the Bound Brook. As a result of these investigations, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection has issued a fish consumption advisory for the Bound Brook and its tributaries including New Market Pond and Spring Lake.

In October and November 1997 EPA collected soil and interior dust samples from residential properties on Spicer Avenue near the industrial park. EPA and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) reviewed the data obtained from this sampling and concluded that exposure to PCBs in dust and soil posed a potential health concern for residents of several of the properties tested. To address these concerns, EPA cleaned the interiors of seven homes and ordered potentially responsible parties (PRPs) for the site to remove contaminated soil from six residential properties.

In April and October of 1998 EPA collected soil and interior dust samples from residential properties located on Delmore Avenue and Hamilton Bou-

levard near the industrial park. PCBs were found in dust and soil at levels which posed a potential health concern for residents. To address these concerns, interior cleaning is required at seven homes and soil removal is required at seven homes. EPA has ordered PRPs for the site to remove soils from the seven homes located on Delmore Avenue and Hamilton Boulevard.

In May 1998, EPA expanded the soil sampling program to include areas surrounding homes identified for remediation. PCBs at low levels were found in the samples collected. There is no immediate health concern from exposure to PCBs at the levels found. Further investigations in the community surrounding the site will be conducted as part of the remedial investigation.

Current Actions

In October 1998 EPA collected interior wipe samples and surface soil samples from commercial properties located on Spicer Avenue and Hamilton Boulevard near the industrial park. PCBs were not found in the interiors of the buildings sampled. PCBs were detected in soil samples collected at concentrations up to seven parts per million (ppm). PCBs at these levels are not a health concern for workers; however, the number of samples collected is not sufficient to fully characterize the extent of contamination at many of these properties. Additional sampling of commercial properties is planned as part of the upcoming remedial investigation.

Removal of PCB contaminated soil is underway at six homes located on Spicer Avenue. Plans are being prepared for the removal of contaminated soil from seven homes located on Delmore Avenue and Hamilton Boulevard. Work on the second group of homes is scheduled to start the summer of 1999.

The interiors of seven homes on Spicer Avenue were cleaned in April 1998. Post-cleaning samples were collected to verify the effectiveness of the cleaning. Analysis of these samples showed that the levels of PCBs were effectively reduced at four of the homes cleaned and that additional actions were required at three homes to reduce the levels of PCBs present. In February 1999, five homes located on Hamilton Boulevard were cleaned. Soil removal is

underway or is planned at the four remaining homes which require cleaning. The cleaning of these homes will be conducted after the soil removal is completed.

Future Actions

EPA will undertake a comprehensive study of the site, called a Remedial Investigation/ Feasibility Study (RI/FS), to help determine the nature and extent of contamination and to develop a remedy to mitigate threats to human health and the environment. Work plans for this study are currently being developed.

For More Information

For information about the health effects from exposure to PCBs or other environmental contaminants contact the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) at (732) 906-6931.

For information about EPA's investigation and the response action required to address health concerns at the Site contact Eric Wilson at (732) 906-6991 or Pat Seppi at (212) 637-3679.

SUPERFUND OMBUDSMAN

EPA, Region 2 has designated an ombudsman as a point-of-contact for community concerns and questions about the federal Superfund program in New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. To support this effort, the agency has established a 24-hour, toll-free number that the public can call to request information, express their concerns or register complaints about Superfund. The ombudsman for EPA's Region 2 office is:

George H. Zachos
U.S. EPA, Region 2
2890 Woodbridge Avenue MS-211
(732) 321-6621
Toll-free 888-283-7626

###